

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2539
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
DEPLOYING PEACEKEEPERS IN CONGO
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is planning to deploy more peacekeepers in Congo;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the number of Indian soldiers already deployed there?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b): In accordance with the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement on Transition signed by the Congolese parties in 2002, national elections are scheduled to be held in the Democratic Republic of Congo before the end of 2005. Considering the present troop strength of the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) as inadequate for the task ahead, the UN Secretary General (UNSG) in his Special Report dated 26 May 2005 had recommended deployment of an additional brigade with MONUC, principally to provide security for elections. Based on UNSG's recommendation and in anticipation of a Security Council authorization for enhancement of troops, the UN Secretariat had enquired if India would be in a position to provide additional peacekeeping troops for the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Government of India has, in principle, indicated its willingness to strengthen its peacekeeping contingent in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(c) 3551 personnel of the Indian Defence Forces are currently deployed in the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC).